



Docket No. 49584 (70904)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: MIZUTANI, et al.

EXAMINER: V. Manoharan

SERIAL NO. 09/506,713

GROUP: 1764

FILED: February 18, 2000

FOR: PERFORATED TRAY WITHOUT DOWNCOMER,
PERFORATED TRAY TOWER WITHOUT DOWNCOMER
AND METHOD OF DISTILLATION

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop RCE, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 12/1, 2003.

By: Eileen M. Woodburn

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

The following is in response to the Office Action mailed September 3, 2003, in the above referenced application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Argum nts begin on page 7 of this paper.